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**NEARLY 3 MILLION UNEMPLOYED WILL BE HELPED
IF FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS ARE EXTENDED**

Failure to Restart Federal UI Benefits Will Leave the Unemployed with No Safety Net

Washington, D.C. – If Congress extends the TEUC program for six months and retroactively extends benefits to people who have exhausted regular benefits over the last three months, the **Joint Economic Committee (JEC) Democrats** estimate that nearly 3 million jobless workers would be helped.

From December 2003 through the end of March 2004, an unprecedented number of individuals – an estimated 1.1 million jobless workers – will have exhausted their regular state unemployment benefits without receiving additional aid, according to a report released last week by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. The JEC Democrats have done a state-by-state analysis estimating that an additional 1.7 million unemployed workers will exhaust their regular state jobless benefits over the next six months, from April to September 2004 (**see table**).

“The unemployed are exhausting their jobless benefits at an extremely high rate,” said **Rep. Pete Stark (D-CA), Senior Democrat** on the JEC. “The one thing we can do for unemployed workers right now is to restart federal jobless benefits and hopefully head off financial ruin for these families.”

The Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation (TEUC) program was created two years ago to provide additional weeks of temporary federal unemployment benefits to jobless workers who have exhausted their regular, state-funded unemployment benefits and are still without a job. After being extended twice, TEUC began phasing out in late December 2003 and individuals who have run out of their regular state jobless benefits since then have not been eligible for federal benefits.

“Treasury Secretary Snow has said that President Bush would sign an extension of temporary federal unemployment benefits if a bill reached his desk,” said **Rep. Stark**. “What is the Republican Congressional leadership waiting for – another two million people to run out of their state benefits?”

The Joint Economic Committee, established under the Employment Act of 1946, was created by Congress to review economic conditions and to analyze the effectiveness of economic policy.

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Number of Individuals Exhausting Regular State Unemployment Benefits Who Do Not Qualify for Additional TEUC Benefits

	From end of TEUC through March 2004	Projected from April through September 2004	Total from end of TEUC through September 2004
Alaska	6,400	9,600	16,000
Alabama	10,800	17,600	28,400
Arkansas	11,300	16,100	27,400
Arizona	13,500	24,300	37,800
California	176,700	262,300	439,000
Colorado	16,300	25,100	41,400
Connecticut	15,800	24,400	40,200
District of Columbia	4,100	5,900	10,000
Delaware	2,600	3,800	6,400
Florida	41,900	62,200	104,100
Georgia	33,700	41,300	75,000
Hawaii	2,400	3,300	5,700
Iowa	8,300	13,300	21,600
Idaho	6,500	9,700	16,200
Illinois	52,800	86,200	139,000
Indiana	26,900	38,100	65,000
Kansas	10,300	15,600	25,900
Kentucky	10,000	15,800	25,800
Louisiana	12,400	25,100	37,500
Massachusetts	29,100	45,700	74,800
Maryland	12,600	19,000	31,600
Maine	3,800	5,400	9,200
Michigan	48,500	82,800	131,300
Minnesota	18,700	28,400	47,100
Missouri	21,700	33,900	55,600
Mississippi	6,900	9,800	16,700
Montana	3,400	4,100	7,500
North Carolina	37,600	51,400	89,000
North Dakota	2,200	1,800	4,000
Nebraska	5,900	9,100	15,000
New Hampshire	1,700	3,000	4,700
New Jersey	54,600	85,900	140,500
New Mexico	4,300	7,200	11,500
Nevada	8,700	13,500	22,200
New York	103,300	137,000	240,300
Ohio	31,300	54,300	85,600
Oklahoma	9,300	13,900	23,200
Oregon	21,200	32,100	53,300
Pennsylvania	50,400	83,900	134,300
Puerto Rico	15,600	20,900	36,500
Rhode Island	5,000	7,700	12,700
South Carolina	16,100	23,200	39,300
South Dakota	600	800	1,400
Tennessee	20,000	31,100	51,100
Texas	72,000	112,400	184,400
Utah	6,800	10,200	17,000
Virginia	16,000	24,800	40,800
Virgin Islands	400	400	800
Vermont	2,600	3,000	5,600
Washington	26,200	40,000	66,200
Wisconsin	25,700	37,300	63,000
West Virginia	3,800	6,300	10,100
Wyoming	1,300	1,700	3,000
Total	1,150,000	1,741,600	2,891,600

Note: The number 6,400 means 6,400 individuals will have exhausted regular state UI benefits and will not qualify for additional TEUC benefits.

Source: First column is from Shapiro, Isaac. "More than One Million of the Unemployed Have Now Been Denied Aid Due to End of Federal Program," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 3/25/2004. Second column is Joint Economic Committee Democrats' calculations based on data from U.S. Department of Labor. (3/25/2004)